



WADE GIFFIN THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

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Wade Giffin offered our annual Thanksgiving message today. This was Wade's 5th Thanksgiving message to the club. This Thanksgiving, of course, is much different than any that most of us have experienced. This will be the first time the huge Giffin family will not be together for Thanksgiving in many years. Such is the case for many families. There was a sense of sadness when he talked to his parents about not traveling home for the holiday.

The temptation in times like this is for people to look way down in the weeds, to focus on the details. And the detail we often see is what we won't be able to do, or the people we won't be able to see. When we get to that kind of place, it is hard to find things for which we are grateful.

Wade noted that the folks who make up the Upper Arlington Rotary Club are leaders who are often called on to lead through difficult times and unusual seasons. In doing that it is important to see the bigger picture and navigate through the difficulty from a higher altitude.

He noted that that's exactly what we need to do this year. With regard to Thanksgiving, he invited us to think about the same thing in order to help us cultivate a spirit of gratitude.

We should focus on the larger arc of life, rather than down in the weeds. Reflecting on the larger arc of God's presence and activity in the world is important in these times. That presence is called God's Providence. He shared the story of how Puritan clergyman Roger Williams, banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony because he was preaching religious tolerance, established the town of Providence – named for the Providence he felt in receiving God's help during his time of

difficulty. Ultimately, we all live under the umbrella of that Providence.

Fast forwarding to where we are today, we find that in our culture, we're not so quick to use that kind of language, or even that kind of thinking because we may have lost sight of the bigger picture. We're more quickly wanting to attribute things that happen in life to things like fate, or luck, or our own hard work. We should remember that back there in the background, God's hand is at work.

We have to be careful about what monopolizes our lives and our energy and about having priorities in order. We should recognize and depend on the reality that God is the giver, and sustainer of all. We call that Providence. Providence means that in all things there is reason for Thanksgiving.

It invites us to look at the many blessings that are still present. We should also recognize those blessings that we might not have seen without the challenge of this pandemic. For example, many people are communicating more with family members on a regular basis than ever before. Wade noted that he has rediscovered the joy of his parents through regular Facetime meetings with them during the pandemic.

Wade made one last point about the providential nature of God. The times we are in are an invitation to take inventory. Take inventory to notice the ways that we can see from this higher 50,000 foot perspective that we have been providentially cared for in the past. That care is in the present and we should have every reason to believe that it will continue into the future.



[CLICK HERE](#) to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings



GREETERS

December 1

Barri Jones (VH)
Rudy Whipps (VH)

December 8

Brian Close (VH)
Chris Guglielmi (VH)

December 15

Matt Rule (VH)
Brian Bainbridge (VH)

REGISTRATION DESK

December 1

N/A

December 8

N/A

December 15

N/A

CALENDAR

December 1 - ZOOM Meeting

Dr. Herb Asher, OSU Professor Emeritus of Political Science
2020 Election Post-Mortem, What's Next, and the early 2024 Handicapping
Host: Herb Gillen

December 8 - ZOOM Meeting

Jack Park, Ohio State Football
Host: Tom Davis

December 15 - ZOOM Meeting
Joe Nardone, CEO & President of Columbus Regional Airport Authority
Host: Herb Gillen

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

DECEMBER 1ST
ZOOM MEETING

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



THE MEETING



President **Debbie Johnson** opened the meeting and asked **Wade Giffin** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In support of Rotary Foundation Month Debbie shared a slide featuring highlights of what Rotary does every day around the world.

Debbie reported the names of Board nominees for terms beginning July 1, 2021. Nominees are: **Anne Croskey, Jeanine Hummer, Angela Lanctot, Eric Stoll** and **Jerry Woessner**. **Andy Livingston** is nominated for Secretary and will move into the club's leadership chairs.

All meetings through the end of December will be via Zoom.



Bob Whetzel, of the History Committee, gave us a brief look at some Rotary historical facts. The fifth Rotary club was in Columbus. It was founded in 1912. The new Columbus club had a Wolf family member in the club representing the banking industry. At that time there was only one member per classification allowed in each club. There was only one club in Columbus until 1969. Whitehall/Bexley was the second Columbus-area club at that time. The Whitehall Bexley club's banking member was Franz Huntington from Huntington National Bank. In response, **John McCoy** of City National Bank asked Carl Stallard and Bob to help form a club. The result was the formation of the Upper Arlington club which was chartered on July 27, 1972. Also at that time, clubs had specific geographic boundaries. The UA club's boundary is Henderson Road on the north and the area between the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers to the point where they merge. To form a club it was necessary to get an existing club to sponsor your proposed new club.



We heard a "Get to Know Me" session with **Steve Zid**. Steve is a UA native and is a graduate of UAHS. He attended Miami University. He worked in Indianapolis until 18 months ago when he moved back to Upper Arlington. He is a marathon runner and had scheduled an Ironman competition which was cancelled this year. His dad inspired him to work in the financial profession. The most influential persons in his life have been his dad and mom. His most memorable experience was the OSU/Oregon national championship date of January 12, 2015. The game itself followed a memorable day on the Vail ski slopes with his family. His bucket list includes skiing in the Alps.



Larry McVey introduced his grandson **Sean Miller** who was about to leave for his Zoom reading class.

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NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Weather conditions caused the Senior Service Saturday scheduled for November 21 to be rescheduled for November 28. Meet at the Senior Center at 8:45 AM and wrap up no later than 11:30 AM. Let **Jim McGovern** know if you can help out.

Tom Davis reported that a notice was sent November 18 about virtual tutoring opportunities at West Broad Elementary School. Refer to the email or let Tom know if you are interested. You can also contact Cindy Leonard at West Broad Elementary. Her contact information is in the November 18 email. The exact start date has not been established but it will be in the near future.



Jeanine Hummer reminded us of the Blood Drive scheduled for December 19.

Dave Dewey reported on the status of our Rotary Foundation drive this month. Dave used Rotary International's focus on providing clean water as an example of the good that the Foundation does around the world. For UA Rotary's November drive he needs to fill about 50 more squares for the Polio Plus OSU/Michigan pool which will support the Foundation drive. \$900 of the pool will go toward Polio Plus with the balance to the winner. Send Dave an email to have your purchase billed to your account or send Dave a check to participate. Squares are \$10.00. He has also received a number of checks for the 125 Club drive and cited drawings for \$200 and \$100 gift cards for contributors. He noted that **Debbie Johnson** is now a Paul Harris +2.



Ned Clark has achieved Paul Harris +3 status.

Herb Gillen thanked volunteers who helped with the computer collection project on November 21. (**Greg Comfort, Michelle Hoyle, Debbie Johnson, Eric Stoll and Jerry Woessner**) One large container – with about 100 devices – was filled.



Herb also noted that the Homeless Families Foundation will be doing their Holiday Store program soon. We will need about a dozen Rotarians on the evening of December 16. COVID precautions will be taken. Details will be coming soon.